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NOMENCLATURAL NOTES, 7. FORBES' AEGEAN TURRIDAE (**)

Abstract:

It is shown that the real author of «Forbes' Aegean Turridae» is Reeve. The descriptions (and figures) by Reeve of the species concerned are very unsatisfactory and type-specimens are not known. Therefore *Pl. abyssicola*, *minuta*, *lyciaca*, *turgida*, *aegeensis* and *fortis* all of Reeve, 1844 as well as *Pl. cycladensis* and *loeviana* Reeve, 1845 and *Pl. multiplicata* and *Pl. delosensis* Reeve, 1846 should all be considered nomina dubia.

The only recognizable species is *Pleurotoma teres* Reeve, 1844 which is considered identical with *Teretia anceps* (Eichwald, 1830).

Riassunto:

Viene precisato che il vero autore di «Forbes' Aegean Turridae» è Reeve. Le descrizioni (e figure) di Reeve relative alle varie specie sono tutt'altro che soddisfacenti e non sono note le specie-tipo. Di conseguenza *Pl. abyssicola*, *minuta*, *lyciaca*, *turgida*, *aegeensis* e *fortis*, tutte di REEVE, 1844 e così pure *Pl. cycladensis* e *loeviana* REEVE, 1845 e *Pl. multiplicata* e *Pl. delosensis* REEVE, 1846, sono da considerarsi nomina dubia.

L'unica specie riconoscibile è *Pleurotoma teres* REEVE, 1844, che è considerata identica a *Teretia anceps* (EICHWALD, 1830).

The «Report on the Mollusca and Radiata of the Aegean Sea, and on their distribution, considered as bearing on Geology» by Edward FORBES was published in 1844. It contains the descriptions of quite a number of new molluscan species and is therefore of importance. Unfortunately the descriptions are very short, uncharacteristic and no figures are given nor are differences with already known or related species mentioned. This has caused great difficulties regarding the identification of most of these species.

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There is almost no material left either, as JEFFREYS (1870:66) already writes «My best thanks are likewise due to Herr Weinkauff and Professor Allman for sending me typical specimens of some of Forbes's Aegean species. Unfortunately his descriptions, or rather diagnoses, are insufficient to identify many of these species; and his types were dispersed among public and private collections». Even from this citation it is uncertain whether the (few) «typical specimens» which Jeffreys received for comparison were really type-specimens in the present sense.

It is clear that identifications of Forbes' species which have been made are nearly all based on tradition rather than on actual type specimens. In my opinion this precludes a positive identification altogether and many names should be considered as *nomina dubia*.

Actions such as those on NORDSIECK (1977) who has «recognized» Forbes' species in shells he found in the eastern Mediterranean should be ignored.

Instead it seems necessary to critically review the status of each individual species and search for possible type specimens. Even then my own experience shows that so-called «typical» specimens, even if marked «from author» are grossly at variance with the (too) short description and the species in question should still remain a *nomen dubium*.

A number of small *Pleurotoma* species are also credited to Forbes as from this report. However the report was published only in the course of 1844 (exact month not known), whereas REEVE published the same seven species viz. *Pl. abyssicola*, *minuta*, *lyciaca*, *teres*, *turgida*, *aegeensis* and *fortis* in his *Conchologia Iconica*, *Pleurotoma* pl. 19 (januari 1844). Moreover the species are not described by FORBES (1844:190) but names only of these seven species are mentioned. It is therefore clear that Reeve should be considered the author of all these species, which are based on specimens in Forbes' collection. Reeve also cites a paper by Forbes in *Proc. Zool Soc.*, 1844 but this, apparently, did never appear.

The only species of *Pleurotoma* that Forbes himself described in the publication cited, is *P. fallax* FORBES (1844:190) and this cannot be recognized.

The identification of the species described by Reeve has also presented many problems, even to Jeffreys, a close friend of Forbes.

As an illustration of the difficulties encountered in identifying these species *P. fortis* may serve as an example. This species has been identified with *Pleurotoma nana* SCACCHI, 1836 by JEFFREYS (1870:83) and MONTEROSATO (1875:43), also with *Pleurotoma inflata* CRISTOFORI & JAN, 1832 by MONTEROSATO (1878:107) as well as with *Leufroyia erronea* MTRS. 1884 by MONTEROSATO (1884:134). KOBELT (1905:377) suggests «vielleicht eine Lokalform der *R. brachystoma*».

Another example concerns *Pleurotoma aegeensis*. This species is first identified with *Pleurotoma septangularis* var. *secalina* PHILIPPI according to JEFFREYS (1870:83 «Forb. ex typ.»). This identification is accepted by MONTEROSATO (1878:105). The same identification is mentioned by BDD (1883:111) who write: «MM. Petit et de Monterosato rapportent encore à cette espèce de *Pl. aegeensis* Forbes. Les échantillons qui sont étiquetés sous ce nom dans la collection Deshayes et qui proviennent de la mer Egée,

appartiennent à un *Raphitoma* très voisin du *R. nebula* var. *Ginnania*, mais d'une forme plus courte et plus ventrue».

Moreover a sample in the British Museum collection, marked «*Mangilla aegeensis* Forb. / from autor / Greece / BM 1911. 10.26. 8359» is a slender, brownish specimen which I identify with *Bela laevigata* (Philippi, 1836), which is related to *B. nebula* (Mont.).

The species have recently been «recognized» by NORDSIECK (1977: 139-143) but considering the difficulties which well-known malacologists had already in the 1870's I feel one should conclude that all the species described by REEVE on pl. 19 (jan. 1844) for which no type specimens can be found, should be considered nomina dubia, not identifiable at present.

The status of nomen dubium is also proposed for the species *Pleurotoma cycladensis* REEVE, 1845 and *P. loeviana* REEVE, 1845, described in Pl.32, spec. 289 and 290 respectively, as well as *P. multiplicata* REEVE, 1846 and *P. delosensis* REEVE, 1846 which were described in Pl.40, spec. 364 and 365. All four species are cited from «Mus. Forbes» and are not to be found either.

The species *Pleurotoma teres* REEVE, 1844 is a very characteristic one, showing only prominent spiral sculpture. Later on it is again described and figured under the same name by FORBES (1844b:412, pl. 10 fig. 3) where Reeve's figure is cited. There can be no question as to the identity of both nominal taxa, which are identified with *Teretia anceps* (EICHWALD, 1830), although some authors doubt the conspecificity of fossil (*anceps*) and recent (*teres*) specimens. In a careful comparison of fossil and recent specimens I cannot detect any difference and I therefore disagree with BOUCHET & WARÉN (1980:81) and JANSSEN (1984:327) who suggest that both species may be different.

Some of the species in question e.g. *P. turgida*, *minuta* and *fortis* have been placed in the genus *Ishnula* GRAY, 1847. As I have demonstrated earlier (1987:147) *Ishnula* GRAY is a nomen nudum and moreover a probable printing error for *Ichnusa* JEFFREYS, 1847. The last name is published in synonymy of *Pleurotoma* and has not been used as an available name before 1961. It therefore cannot be used as a valid genus following art. 11e of the ICZN-code.

A third spelling for this name is *Ischnula* [CLARK] which is used by MÖRCH (1857:10,11) for a group of species including *Murex turricula* MONTAGU, 1803 and varieties. Although this use is mentioned by IREDALE (1915:299) that author did not use the name himself and in a later paper (1918:32) established a new genus *Propebela* for the same group with *Murex turricula* MONTAGU as the type by original designation. *Ischnula* is almost certainly a printing error for *Ichnusa* (ex Clark) and as such it is a synonym of *Ichnusa* JEFFREYS, 1847, which has been used erroneously for *Propebela*. This must have been Iredale's reason for the creation of his new genus. *Propebela* IREDALE, 1918 contains boreal forms exclusively and no recent representatives from the Mediterranean area are known.

With BOUCHET & WARÉN (1980:66) I consider *Propebela* a synonym of *Oenopota* MÖRCH, 1852 = *Lora* auct. not GISTEL, 1848.

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